



Standing Up for Women's Rights

Raising Wages for Working Families

Nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers in the U.S. are women and many are the heads of their households, which is why Rep. Aguilar supports raising the federal minimum wage, which will significantly benefit working women.

Pay discrimination against women is illegal, but women continue to earn less than men in the workplace. Nationwide, women who work full-time jobs all year make only 79 cents for every dollar their male counterparts make. This is an average yearly pay gap of \$10,762 for working women, money that could contribute to their household income to buy groceries, pay for housing, buy diapers, or save for retirement.

Rep. Aguilar supports the Paycheck Fairness Act to close the pay gap and ensure equal pay for equal work. The issue is even more pressing for African American women and Latinas, who make on average only 60 cents and 55 cents respectively for every dollar earned by white men.

Quality Education and Affordable Child Care

The average cost of child care at centers is \$11,666 a year, which can rise to as high as \$18,773 a year depending on the region. In many places, the cost of child care for two-child families is higher than the cost of rent. But only one in six children who qualify for federal child care assistance actually receives help. Rep. Aguilar supports expanding support for working families who need access to child care.

Pre-Kindergarten and Head Start programs are important options for families with young children. Only 29 percent of four year olds were enrolled in a preschool program in 2014 and only half of all young children who are eligible to participate in Head Start actually do. Rep. Aguilar supports expanding access to these programs by increasing investments in Head Start and by passing the Strong Start for America's Children Act, a bill to help local school districts start pre-k programs.

Rep. Aguilar also supports policies to expand paid leave options to give women and working families the flexibility they need to balance work and family.

Access to Affordable Reproductive Health Care

As a Member of the Pro-Choice Caucus, Rep. Aguilar has spoken out in support of women's reproductive care and access to birth control. He has voted against Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood and limit access to family planning services for low-income women.

Rep. Aguilar supports the Women's Health Protection Act, a bill to stop states from restricting access to reproductive services. He also supports the EACH Woman Act to repeal the Hyde Amendment restrictions to ensure that women enrolled in federal health care programs have equal access to abortion coverage.

Supporting Women Entrepreneurs

Small businesses are the drivers of our economy, creating nearly 75 percent of all new jobs since the Great Recession. But women small business owners face obstacles. Women small business owners who seek loans are approved 20 percent less often than their male counterparts. That is why Rep. Aguilar is working to bring Small Business Administration resources to our region to help Inland Empire women entrepreneurs expand their workforce and create jobs in our community.

For additional information and to sign up for updates from Rep. Aguilar's office, please visit www.aguilar.house.gov.